

Topic of project:

Students were to work in collaborative pairs to research and present about a famous volcanic eruption or earthquake (ex. Mt. Merapi or San Francisco Earthquake 1906). The students were to connect their researched information to the broader topic of plate tectonics. They were specifically to address how their event was a result of plate boundary motion, correctly identify which plate boundary their event was caused by, connect and interpret key sections of data displayed maps as evidence to their decisions, discuss the possibility of current activity, and be able to field questions from their audience.

For this project instead of using PowerPoint the girls used a presentation media called **Prezi**. After watching the Tech Presentation at the end of 09-10 school year, we felt this project might be a good way to test it out.

What is Prezi? A presentation medium that allows you to present the big picture of an idea, recognize the relationship between ideas, and highlight sequences that might otherwise be lost in a traditional slide presentation. This tool also provides options to help better relate the topic you are sharing by using the “path” option. The delivery can also facilitate a more organic and collaborative discussion about the theme being presented. <http://prezi.com/index/>

Time Line

Whole project took about 2 weeks of in-class and out-of-class work.

Prezi was introduced as homework. I had the girls watch the instructional video from the Prezi website to see how the basics are done. <http://prezi.com/learn/getting-started/>

Then, during the first class I showed a basic Prezi design on the smartboard. I then modeled how to add and modify my current Prezi. Once I made modifications I then showed the girls how to manipulate the Prezi. I left some time for questions and then the girls signed up for a Prezi account (signed up on the Educational Link). Their homework was to start a Prezi (simply open and name) and then “invite” me to be a co-editor.

Over the next several class periods, students researched their topic and built their Prezi. Students were able to invite each other as co-editors so they could work on the same Prezi at the same time. I was always able to visit their Prezi account and see their progress as I was a co-editor.

Pros	Cons
Help service for Prezi	Software is not stored on computer so if server is interrupted cannot access internet and work
Not linear – move between thoughts and images naturally	Can zoom-in too far or zoom-out too far
Easily embed videos	Co-editors not “real time”
New! Different!	Help service for Prezi was a bit complicated (several postings/trying to find initially)
Canvas is large so ideas can flow!	Program takes some getting use to
Models how girls learn/think (story-theme-connections)*	Canvas is large, so one can get lost
Versatility/artistic side	

* Presenter’s opinion.